Reflection #1 spring 2010

Seminar in Applied Research I

Fatimah Washington

As I understand the course objectives of this course, I view the course meeting the ideal of **social justice** in that the teacher researcher will seek out a concern or issue in the education system, examine the issue carefully through measurable research and data, develop a hypothesis and then through critical thinking and conferring with peers the teacher researcher will devise a proposal for solving or fixing the issue at hand.

Further, if social justice is to exist, there must be **collaboration**. Brooklyn College encourages its education students to collaborate. There are numerous group projects that are assigned in education. This course addresses the ideal of collaboration by encouraging it students to work together with each other and to reach out to learn about the community outside of the school and discover its resources for information.

Likewise, one must understand and accept **diversity** in culture and ethnicity if one hopes to collaborate. This course sets an objective that the teacher researcher will be “prepared to work in a racially, ethnically and linguistically diverse population.

Finally, the best teachers are teachers that are **reflective.** Teachers that are reflective are dynamic, meaning that they change for the better. Reflective teachers are constantly thinking about the best way/method to get a teaching point across. Critical self reflection is built in to the course objectives and outlines. For example teacher researchers are expected to “reflect on their own practice and write a literature review”.

Lastly, social justice, collaboration, critical self-evaluation and diversity are inter-connected. Working on one and not the others is not sufficient. For example, it is not effective for a teacher to try and work collaboratively if that teacher does not understand and accept diversity. And social justice will not prevail. Teachers should strive for all four ideals in order to make the best impact on his or her students.